

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 6 November 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
6 NOVEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

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2. Congo

Part of the Kinshasa garrison has been flown down to Katanga Province. This leaves the Congolese capital vulnerable to a direct attack by mercenaries still in Angola. So far, however, there has been no solid indication that a move on Kinshasa is imminent.

The military situation in Katanga remains murky, with the small mercenary band [redacted]

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[redacted] apparently holed-up waiting for reinforcements.

To the north, efforts are being made to get Schramme and his troops out of Rwanda, where they fled Saturday night. Counting the mercenaries, their Katangan allies, and assorted hangers-on, about 2,000 people are involved. The evacuation is still hampered by a shortage of aircraft and by Mobutu's demand that the entire Schramme force be returned to Congolese authority.

3. South Arabia

Rival Arab nationalists are now at each other in a "war of extermination." At least 70 persons have been killed and 250 wounded in the last two days, and the hoodlums are ignoring their leaderships' pleas for a cease-fire.

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4. Yemen

The men who overthrew President Sallal's regime yesterday have considerably more tribal support than did the deposed president. This may provide some sense of unity among republican Yemenis and, once the Egyptians are gone, a basis for dealing with the royalists, many of whom share the same tribal allegiances.

Yemen's new leaders are all former republican cabinet officers who have resented the strong Egyptian hand in Yemeni affairs. In time they may look to renewed relations with the US.

5. Spain

Rumors that Franco's health is failing are going the rounds in Madrid again.

Ambassador Duke notes various stories that the Generalissimo has had a stroke, or suffers from fainting spells, or has circulatory problems. The ambassador also notes that the 75-year-old Spanish leader keeps a fairly active public appearance schedule, which probably would not be the case if he were really in bad shape.

There are some indications, however, that Franco's hand is less firm on the throttle when it comes to the details of government operations. As the ambassador put it, "there are signs of drifting."

6. Ecuador

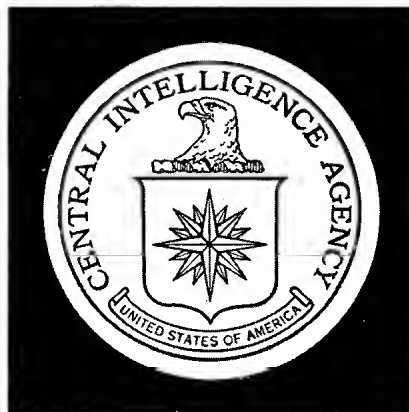
President Arosemena, who has never been very popular with the military, is trying to curry favor in that quarter by offering to buy French Mirages. In view of Ecuador's limited financial resources, Arosemena will get little support from the civilian side of the government. Even the Ecuadorean air force is somewhat chary and wants time to compare the French fighters with the F-5.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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6 November 1967

**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION:

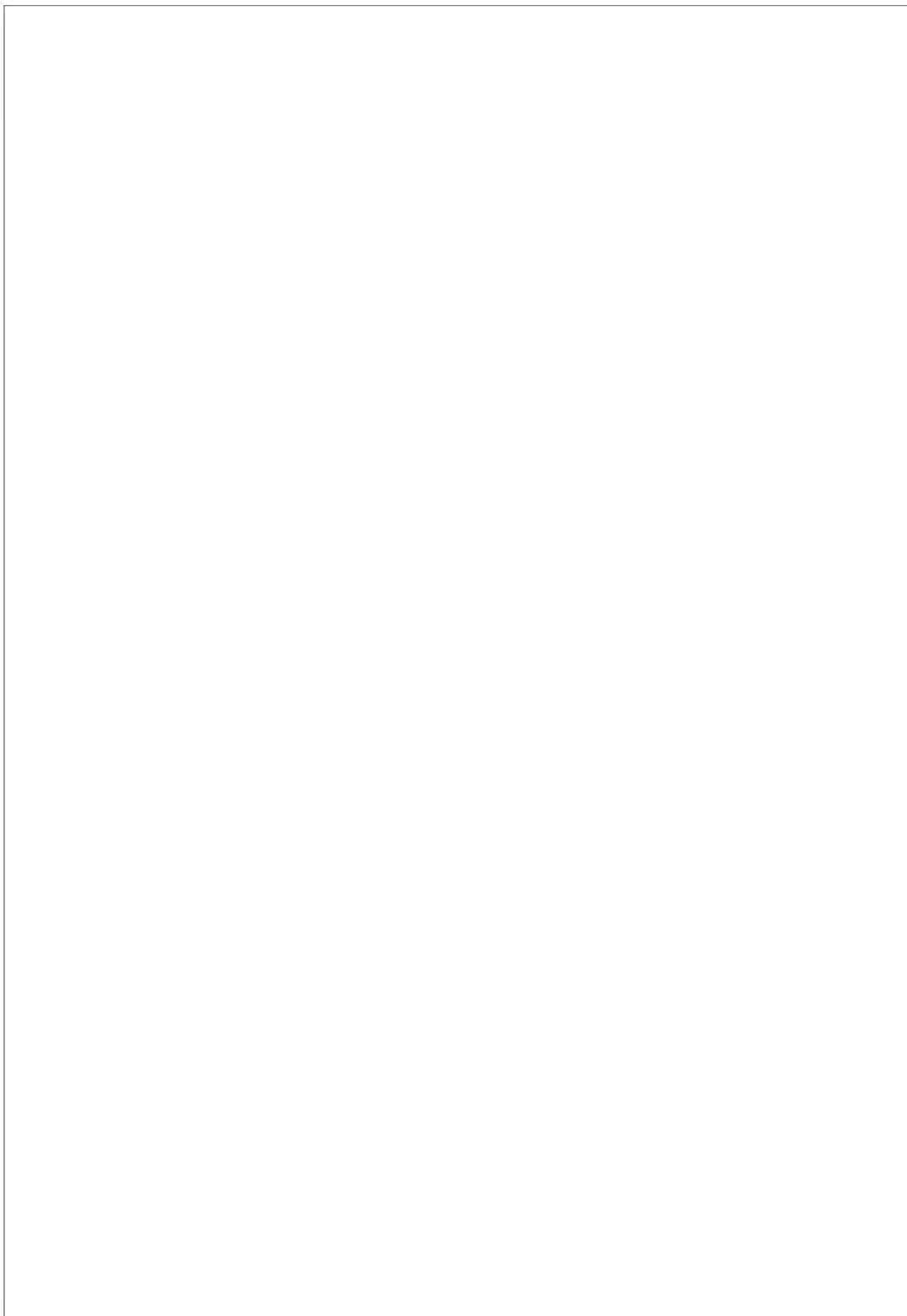
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Ho Chi Minh Gets Award: As part of the Soviet 50th anniversary celebrations, Moscow has given its highest award--the Order of Lenin--to Ho Chi Minh. In announcing the award Saturday, the Soviet press called Ho an "outstanding revolutionary and leader of the world Communist movement, consistent fighter for socialism and for strengthening Soviet-Vietnamese friendship." Hanoi has made no comment as yet on the award.

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No Comment: Neither Hanoi nor the Liberation Front has as yet offered any commentary on Ambassador Goldberg's proposal to include the Front in any UN Security Council debate of the Vietnam problem.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

More From the Women for Peace: Hanoi is continuing to broadcast statements on the war by leftist Americans who have recently been in North Vietnam. These broadcasts are in English and beamed to US troops in South Vietnam. The latest such broadcast was on 3 November and comprised remarks attributed to Dagmar Wilson, national chairman of "Women Strike for Peace." Mrs. Wilson was in Hanoi in early October.

The broadcast consisted of her views of American "antiwar activities." Mrs. Wilson expressed the belief that the best way to support the boys in Vietnam is to bring them home and related how people like herself must try to turn the minds of people who support the war effort. This was being done, she claimed, by making heroes out of the young men who have refused to fight. Mrs. Wilson said she believes it is more important to live and work for what you believe in than to "sacrifice and die."

In another broadcast in English to American servicemen in the South, Hanoi on 3 November carried excerpts from what is described as "letters left behind on the battlefield." These were letters

from a mother to a young Marine who, the broadcast pointed out, died on 22 April, less than one month after he had been promoted.

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Hanoi on the President's Press Conference:

Hanoi has denounced President Johnson's 1 November press conference statement that US objectives in Vietnam are limited. A Hanoi broadcast in English on 4 November claimed that the President's declaration actually means the US wants South Vietnam to be "a new type colony and a US military base for aggression." "This colonialist stand of the Johnson administration," the broadcast asserted, "has shed more light on his hypocritical announcement about a peaceful settlement, his readiness to negotiate, and the conditional cessation of the bombing." Because of this "hypocritical policy," the broadcast said that the protest against US policy in Vietnam has mounted throughout the world.

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